United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA New England
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August 22, 2002

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Mayor Hathaway, City of Pittsfield
Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities, City of Pittsfield
Public Information Repositories

RE: July 2002 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the July 2002 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

Enclosures

1. OVERVIEW

During July 2002, Weston, EPA/USACE's prime contractor, performed startup and preconstruction activities along the east bank of Phase 1 of the 1.5 Mile Removal Action. These activities included access road construction, tree clearing, temporary fence installation, and construction of the water treatment system pad and secondary containment liner. In addition, Weston continued conditions monitoring video taping and vibration monitoring of the Lyman Street bridge.

2. CHRONOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TASKS PERFORMED

Week of 1 July to 5 July. Weston began laying out the top of bank access road using the existing pin flags established to identify the excavation limits.

Gordon Tree Service, under contract to Weston, completed tree clearing on the east side of the drainage swale and continued clearing to the west side of the swale, allowing room for layout and construction of the gravel access road. Two truck loads of wood chips were shipped to the approved wood burning facility in Berlin, NY. Remaining wood chips are stockpiled on site and will be used for dust suppression.

Sinopoli Construction, under contract to Weston, started installation of the geotextile for the road base and placement of bank run gravel for the access road. Approximately 600 ft of access road was completed.

No work was performed on 4 July due to the Independence Day holiday.

Week of 8 July to 12 July. Gordon Tree Service continued clearing trees along the east bank. Trees less than 8 inches were chipped immediately. Larger trees were stockpiled for shipment to a sawyer or chipping by a large chipper at a later date.

Sinopoli Construction continued installation of geotextile and gravel for the access road. Approximately 400 feet of road was installed.

Wahconah Welding, a subcontractor to Gordon Tree Service, inspected the site to prepare for mobilization of a crane for lowering of large trees located on inaccessible portions of the banks.

Weston collected elevation data to determine pad elevations for the water treatment system pad and began layout of the area.

Week of 15 July to 19 July. Weston performed the following work:

- Continued oversight of the tree clearing subcontractor.
- Relocated the gravel stockpile located on the Barbalunga property from the access road location to within the easement at the truck turnaround.
- Removed tree stumps from Lot I9-5-13 and stockpiled them in a clear area north of the drainage swale.
- Installed two soil borings at the water treatment plant pad location. This work was performed for GE as part of the Oxbows A and C soil investigation activities.
- Conducted a preparatory meeting for the start up of the installation of the temporary security fencing.
- Laid out the access road from Hathaway Street to the drainage swale crossing.
- Installed 12-inch manhole risers to protect existing monitoring wells.
- Relocated the jersey barriers located at Hathaway and Ashley Streets to the end of Ashley Street to allow vehicles to access the site through Hathaway Street.
- Completed layout of the water treatment system pad area and placement of grade stakes.
- Compacted the fill at the water treatment system pad area with a five-ton roller.
- Laid out the location of the water treatment underground electrical service from the water treatment system pad to the automatic car wash transformer.

Gordon Tree Service completed the tree clearing on the east side of the river. Gordon used a crane supplied by Wahconah Welding to complete removal of large trees overhanging the river. Gordon walked the site and picked up trees and brush requiring chipping in previously cleared areas. Maxymillian (a subcontractor to Gordon) chipped the large trees and stockpiled the chips in a clean area east of the drainage swale. The wood chips are planned for use as a dust suppressant on access roads.

Sinopoli Construction continued laying out geotextile and placing bank run gravel for the top of bank access road along the east bank. This work was nearly completed except for a small section near the Laundromat. Sinopoli Construction began installation of geotextile, fill, and sand for the water treatment system pad. Sinopoli Construction began and completed grading of the pad near the pump and filter area.

Berkshire Fence began installation of the temporary fence. The fence was completed from the east up to the large loam pile. Berkshire also completed installation of a stockade fence at the Lot I9-5-13 easement line.

Week of 22 July to 26 July. Weston hired two union laborers to assist in the site preparation work. Weston continued installation of the geotextile for the access roads and water treatment plant areas and completed compaction of the water treatment pad area. Based on a meeting with Sevenson, Weston's excavation subcontractor, it was agreed that the water treatment pad should be extended by 15 feet and the access road at the ditch crossing should be widened to accommodate lowboy tractor-trailer deliveries. Weston installed hay bales around the perimeter of the water treatment pad area and began construction of the secondary containment liner. Weston laid out the access road from Hathaway St. to the drainage swale crossing.

Weston completed video taping of parcels I8-24-1, and I8-23-1, 2, 3, and 4 for the conditions monitoring survey. Weston began the video taping of structures for the pre-construction existing conditions monitoring. Structures completed included those on Lots I8-23-6 and I8-24-5. Weston began video taping of the Lyman Street bridge.

Sinopoli Construction continued installation of the sand fill at the water treatment plant area and fine-graded the west tank area. Sinopoli Construction continued installation of the bank run

gravel for the access road near the Laundromat and at the Hathaway entrance to the drainage swale crossing. Sinopoli Construction began placing fill over the water treatment plant secondary containment liner.

Berkshire Fence completed installation of the fence on the east side of the river and installed a total of three 20-foot gates, two 3-foot gates and 1573 ft of fabric and posts. Berkshire readjusted the Day Street and Hathaway Street gates to the proper access road elevation.

3. SAMPLING/TEST RESULTS RECEIVED

Table 1 includes a summary of the analytical results for the fill sampled collected from the Sinopoli borrow pit in June 2002. This material was used as fill material in the drainage swale crossing, gravel for the access roads, and fill for the water treatment pad area. The sample was tested for PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons. Results were non-detect for both parameters, indicating the material meets the fill material standards for PCBs and TPH.

4. DIAGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TASKS PERFORMED

Figure 1 is a map of the Phase I area, and includes lot parcel identification numbers, air sampling locations, the access road location, the water treatment system pad location and the proposed effluent discharge location.

5. REPORTS RECEIVED AND PREPARED

Weston received the "Vibration Monitoring Summary Report," for the period July 11 to July 29, 2002, dated August 9, 2002 from Weston's subcontractor, Geosonics, Inc. During this period, the seismographic was set up at the Lyman Street Bridge on continuous seismic mode. The maximum ground vibration level reached during this period 0.33 inches per second (ips). This reading has been attributed to disturbance caused by personnel beneath the bridge. The next highest level recorded was 0.06 ips. These levels are well below the state's recommended limit of 2.0 ips.

6. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

See attached Photos.

7. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED IN AUGUST 2002

- Install telephone and electrical conduit from the paved area of Lot I8-23-6 along the access road to water treatment system staging area. Possibly install electrical and telephone service to the water treatment system staging area.

- Complete installation of access roads on the east side of the river, including paving a small section of the access road from Hathaway Street to the decontamination pad.

- Move equipment storage area and decontamination trailer behind 10 Lyman Street and construct shed for chemical/hazardous waste storage.

- Sevenson to mobilize to site, begin setup of site trailers and begin construction water treatment system.

8. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT

Table 1. Fill sample analytical results for fill sample collected in June 2002

Table 2. Excavation Quantity Summary Table (note that no soils have been removed since June 2002)

Figure 1- Phase I Site Plan

Photodocumentation